WHY?

WE use this little word a great deal and often very foolishly, but there are times when it seems to us that we have a right to ask, "Why?" During these last two years many persons in this country, and many more in other countries, have been asking that question. Perhaps there are many who have not found the answer and have come to think that there is no reasonable answer for them.

A mother dies suddenly, leaving a father with little children. It is God's plan. Who can answer, "Why?"

A little child, strong and well and the joy of the home and the promise of honor to God and great good to the world, suddenly dies. It is God's plan. Who can answer the question, "Why?"

A young man, strong and talented and prepared for a life of active service among his fellow men, enters the army. Word comes from across the sea, "Killed in action!" Or perhaps he has died of disease in camp before striking a blow for the cause. It is God's plan. Who can answer the question, "Why?"

There is One who can answer that question, and in a way that would satisfy every reasonable person. But however well He might be able to satisfy the questioning hearts, He gives no answer in way of explanation to the thousands and millions who question. It is best that He does not, for, although He could give a perfect reason and show how, being a part of his plan, it must be well in the end, even that would not satisfy as well as faith in Him satisfies. If we demand a reason and get it, then we do away with faith. "Blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed." It is not really an explanation that the sore heart wants; it is the loved one back.

He has done something better than to answer our question. He has taken the hardest case of the kind that has ever come up in history and has given a perfectly satisfactory explanation of it, so that everyone now knows that it was right. He has taken the case of his own Son who came into the world to be a King and who, in the prime of his life, after thirty years of preparation and only three years of service, ended his life on the cross, scourged as a common felon, crucified between two thieves. He has explained that case so that we can all see that it would have been a calamity to the world if the great tragedy had not happened. But those who watched Him die on the cross and who lost their Friend—to those his life seemed to be a failure and the cross a great mistake. None ever asked more earnestly than the disciples, "Why? Why?" God gave the answer so plainly that they knew there had been no mistake.

If God can give the answer to the question in that case, the hardest in all history to explain, can we not trust Him to keep the answer in the cases of our loved ones even if it does touch us in the very life? Can we not take from Him the answer of faith and say, "Thy will be done?" Faith tells us that the Father who could explain the death of his own dear Son will sometime make our questions so clear that we shall know even as we are known.

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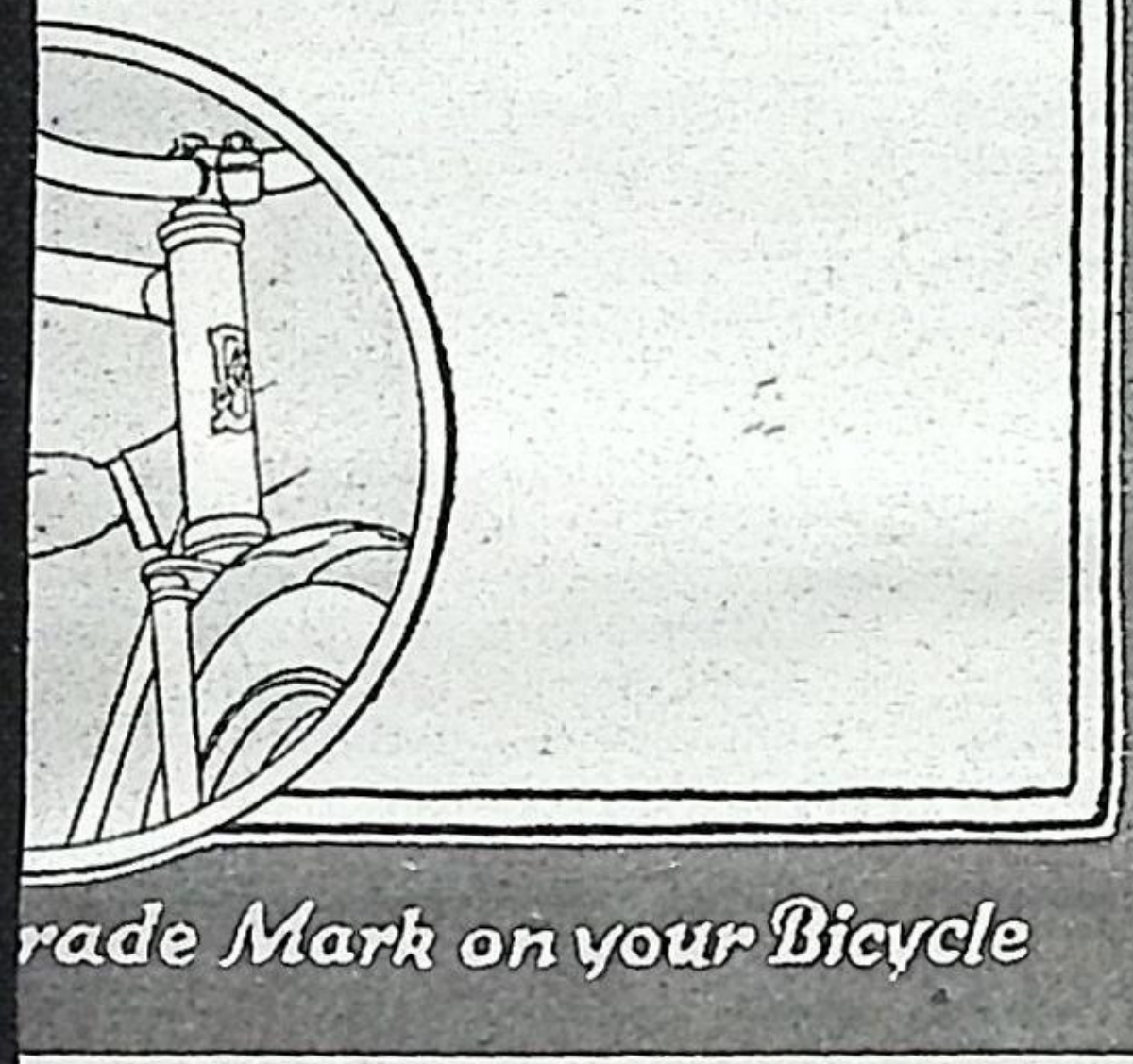

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